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DRAFT REPORT

Addendum

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PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan
for the period 1998-2001

Programme 4. Legal affairs

1. At its 19th meeting, on 14 June 1996, the Committee considered programme 4, Legal affairs, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

Discussion

2. Many delegations expressed support for the programme. A number of delegations expressed the view that the United Nations role in the elimination of international terrorism had not been adequately reflected.

3. Many delegations expressed support for the computerization of treaty registration and publication. Some delegations emphasized the need to continue publications in all the official languages, by conventional means, bearing in mind the different levels of technological development in Member States.

4. Many delegations also expressed support for the training and technical assistance programmes undertaken by the United Nations in support of progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade.

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Conclusions and recommendations

5. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of programme 4 of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 4.4 (f): Delete the words "the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs, a record of the practice of the General Assembly in procedural matters";

(b) Paragraph 4.6: Delete, in the first sentence, the words "on complex and often politically sensitive questions"; and add at the end of the penultimate sentence, the words "as well as in regard to economic and social activities";

(c) Paragraph 4.6 bis: Add a new paragraph after paragraph 4.6 to read as follows:

"4.7 A further objective of this subprogramme is to prepare the Repertory of Practice of the United Nations Organs, a record of the practice of the General Assembly in procedural matters"

and renumber the subsequent paragraphs accordingly;

(d) Paragraph 4.9 (former para. 4.8): In the first sentence, add the words "ad hoc" before the words "International Tribunals";

(e) Paragraph 4.13 (former para. 4.12): At the end of the last sentence, delete the words "and initiatives to counter epidemics and other hazards";

(f) New paragraph 4.17 bis: Add a new paragraph after paragraph 4.17 (former para. 4.16) to read as follows:

"4.18 In connection with the first objective, the Division has responsibility to undertake further work to implement General Assembly resolutions 49/60 of 9 December 1994 and 50/53 of 11 December 1995 on the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate Terrorism and thus to follow up closely the implementation of paragraph 10 of the Declaration and to submit annual reports thereon. The practical measures to be taken by the Secretary-General in accordance with the Declaration are a collection of data on the status and implementation of existing agreements, including information on incidents caused by international terrorism; a compendium of national laws and regulations; an analytical review of existing international legal instruments to assist States in identifying aspects that could be addressed to develop further a comprehensive legal framework of conventions dealing with international terrorism; and a review of existing possibilities within the United Nations system to assisting States in organizing workshops and training courses in combating crimes of international terrorism"

and renumber the subsequent paragraphs accordingly;

(g) Paragraph 4.19 (former para. 4.17): Add the words "in the official languages of the United Nations" after the word "publications".